

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 271000Z MAR 74

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4823

S E C R E T USNATO 1654

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: FUTURE TRILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON NUCLEAR ISSUES

FOR ACDA DIRECTOR IKLE FROM AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD

1. I AM CONCERNED OVER THE ADVERSE EFFECTS UPON THE ALLIANCE OF CONTINUING THE PRACTICE OF CONDUCTING TRILATERAL DISCUSSIONS ON MBFR AWAY FROM BRUSSELS AND WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE OTHER ALLIES. ALLIANCE DISCUSSIONS ON EAST-WEST NEGOTIATIONS -- CSCE AND SALT, AS WELL AS MBFR -- HAVE HERETOFORE BEEN MODELS OF ALLIANCE CONSULTATIONS AND COHESION, AND THE APPEARANCE OF FRICTION AMONG THE ALLIES CAN ONLY STRENGTHEN SOVIET HAND AND ADD TO THE CURRENT DIFFICULTIES IN U.S.-EUROPEAN RELATIONS.

2. I SUGGEST, THERFORE, THAT U.S. GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO HOLDING SUBSEQUENT TRILATERAL MEETINGS IN BRUSSELS AT USNATO MISSION. THIS WOULD BE EXPLICABLE TO OTHER ALLIES, SINCE THERE ARE BILATERALS, TRILATERALS, QUADRILATERALS AND PENTAGONALS GOING ON HERE ALL THE TIME. WE SHOULD KEEP THESE MEETINGS AS LOW-KEY AND AS INFORMAL AS POSSIBLE, BUT SHOULD NOT HIDE FROM THE OTHER ALLIES THAT THEY ARE GOING ON. IF ANOTHER COUNTRY EXPRESSED A STRONG INTEREST IN ATTENDING, MEETING WITH ONE OR MORE OF THE PARTICIPANTS, WE COULD CONSIDER THAT REQUEST ON ITS MERITS.

3. I RECOGNIZE THAT IT WOULD BE INCONVENIENT FOR WASHINGTON TO SEND A TEAM TO BRUSSELS TOO OFTEN FOR THIS PURPOSE,
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BUT SUCH GATHERINGS ARE NOT NEEDED FREQUENTLY.
SCHEDULING THESE MEETINGS IN BRUSSELS WOULD ALSO HELP CORRECT THE UNFAVORABLE IMPRESSION CREATED BY THE ALLIES' DISCOVERY THAT WE HAD ATTEMPTED TO HOLD THE MARCH 13 TRILATERAL

WITHOUT THEIR KNOWLEDGE, AND WOULD IMPROVE PROSPECTS FOR APPROVAL
BY ALL ALLIES OF THE EVENTUAL ALLIANCE POSITION ON NUCLEAR ASPECTS.
RUMSFELD

SECRET

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 11 JUN 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATO01654
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740381/abbrytyx.tel
Line Count: 59
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 APR 2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <05 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR: FUTURE TRILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON NUCLEAR ISSUES
TAGS: PARM, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005